

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Broadcasting the content is not really the issue, even though there is every indication the so-called documentary is anything but news, and nothing but propaganda.

More to the point, however, is Sinclair's heavy-handed, dictatorial command that stations suspend all regular programming in order to broadcast its choice of "news." This takes the matter out of the realm of station choice, and raises the most profound issues of inappropriate corporate manipulation of station judgment and policy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.